

Midwives: Sign the Babies Earthside

By Ibu Robin Lim
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Talking Points

- ❖ Robin Lim, the author of this short, beautiful, autobiographical piece about the practice of singing during birth, is a midwife and founder of health clinics in Indonesia which are offering free prenatal care, birthing services and medical aid to anyone in need. She and her team have been working since 2003 to combat Indonesia’s high maternal and infant mortality rates. She won CNN’s Hero of the Year award in 2011 for helping thousands of low-income women in Indonesia with healthy pregnancy and birth services.
- ❖ Midwife, and founder of Bumi Sehat (Healthy Mother Earth Foundation) tells of one Balinese new year, when nine babies were born at the birth center in 20 hours. These babies were born to families of various ethnicities and religions, but each baby was born in song. A Christian couple sang “Amazing Grace,” another family sang a Buddhist hymn/prayer, another a Muslim song, and another the Christian hymn “Ave Maria.” A Jewish song for a premature (but healthy) birth, and a Hindu prayer rounded out the long day of song-filled births, all accompanied by midwives who “sing the babies earthside.”

Resources

Yayasan Bumi Sehat (Healthy Mother Earth Foundation) <http://www.bumisehatfoundation.org/>

Robin Lim, 2011 CNN Hero of the Year - www.originmagazine.com/2012/05/10/an-interview-with-robin-lim-cnn-woman-of-the-year

Interested or willing to donate to Robin Lim’s work - www.amillionmothers.org/